

# Get to know about Japan

## Get to know about Japanese society

## Get to know about Japanese culture

Are you interested in Japan? Do you want to know more? You may be able to learn something useful and beneficial. Let's communicate, and you will have more chances for new encounters and further interaction with people from all over the world.

Mutual understanding can bring peace to the world.

The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 as a special public institution under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and later became an official independent administrative institution in October 2003. Currently, we are working globally through four domestic offices and 19 international offices in 18 countries, providing opportunities for cultural exchange.

### Japan-Korea Friendship Year 2005

Commemorating the 40th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties between Japan and Korea, the Japan Foundation sponsored many events to promote cultural exchange as part of "Japan-Korea Friendship Year 2005." The following activities were held through March 2005:

#### Japan-Korea Friendship Year 2005 Super Live in Seoul

Held on January 28, 2005, the show promoted friendship between Japanese and Koreans through pop music. Top artists from both countries performed numbers like the Japanese-Korean friendship song "Dance with Me" (Korean/Japanese version), sung in Japanese by Chemistry & Lena Park unit.



#### Korea-Japan Road Club Festival 2005

This all-night event in seven venues included Japanese and Korean DJs in friendly rivalry, an exhibition showcasing young artists and, of course, stage performances.

### Celebrating 150 Years of Japanese-American Relations

The year 2004 was the 150th anniversary of the establishment of amicable Japanese-American relations. Over this period, Japan and the United States have overcome conflicts and reinforced political, economic, and cultural ties to achieve ongoing friendship. Focusing on this commemorative year, the Japan Foundation promoted many cultural events in 2004:

#### US-Japan 150th Anniversary Symposium (See page 27.)

#### Public Symposium: Japanese American Leadership Delegation "Asian American Diversity: Building Coalitions"

From March 27 to April 4, 2004, 13 noted Japanese-Americans met to discuss better understanding between Japanese and Japanese-Americans and help reinforce Japan-U.S. ties. The gathering included appreciation of *kabuki* and *orimono* (tapestry), and a round-table conference with specialists in politics, economics, and education.



#### Revival of *Pacific Overtures* Musical on Broadway (Directed by Amon Miyamoto) (See page 13.)